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A few of Lefevre's bears sitting at the bottom of the stairs.

Single-Owner Collection Of Bears At Norman Heckler's Sept. 19



A large grizzly bear on wheels overlooks a group of more traditional stuffed bears which will all cross the auction block.



Early glass bottles serve as bookends for a pair of stuffed bears perched atop an antique miniature blanket box overlooking other items that will be offered.

WOODSTOCK VALLEY, CONN. — A single-owner collection of more than 1,100 toy bears — many of them recent but more than 200 antique examples by early makers such as Steiff and Merrythought — will be sold at public auction on Friday, Septem-

ber 19, by Norman C. Heckler & Company, in the firm's barn auction venue at 79 Bradford Corner Road.

The bears were collected over the course of nearly 50 years by Charlotte "Chotsie" Lefevre, who died in January at age 96. Lefevre had a few stuffed ani-

mals, but was not a collector until someone gave her an antique Steiff bear he had found in an attic. Something in that bear resonated with her and a collection was born. She displayed the bears in her Vermont home.

The auction, which has a start time of noon Eastern time, will also feature dolls and miniature furniture, stoneware and Redware, early glass and bottles, lamps, treenware bowls (to include four large and impressive burlwood bowls), Hummel figurines (which will be sold as a single lot), some American furniture pieces, a miniature stove, early iron and other antiques and collectibles.

It is the bears that will command center stage, in part because of their sheer number (so many, in fact, that many will be sold as multiples, in bulk lots), but also because a

number of them will attract keen interest from serious collectors. Many of the Steiffs still have their identification (including their trademark "button in ear"), along with that "much-loved" smell that typically accompanies older teddy bears.

Lefevre acquired some of her bears at auction; many others were given to her as gifts. She had an entire room in her house dedicated to the collection, which she proudly showed on glass-door shelves and on an open bookcase. At times her bears were exhibited at the local library and historical society, as well as at Hildene — Mary Todd Lincoln's family home in Manchester, Vt.

One of the older Steiff bears is a charming 10-inch bear with a blank button, circa 1905. It is expected to spark

intense bidding, as will others of the much older, well-worn examples. In the world of collectible bears, being in good or like-new condition is not always a positive.

Proceeds from the sale of the collection will go to benefit the Second Chance Animal Shelter of Shaftsbury, Vt. Chotsie sat on the board of the shelter and was a lifelong lover of live animals, not just stuffed ones. At the time of her death, she owned four cats and a dog, but over the years an army of rescue animals was lucky enough to have been adopted by this kind soul.

The auction will be available for previews, 9 am to 5 pm, September 15-18, and 10 am to noon, start time, on sale day. Appointments are available and appreciated. For information, 860-974-1634 or www.hecklerauction.com.



A lone bear from Lefevre's collection with some of the other items slated to be auctioned.

Conference On Asian Jewelry At Rubin Museum Sept. 20

NEW YORK CITY — The Rubin Museum of Art and the Association for the Study of Jewelry & Related Arts, LLC will partner to offer a one-day conference, Asian Jewelry & Related Arts on Saturday, September 20, at the Rubin Museum during New York's fall Asia Week. The conference is open to all; no prior knowledge is required.

Marking the debut of a jewelry conference during Asia Week here, the program will offer a wide range of topics from experts in their field, ranging from cutting edge technology in dating ancient gold jewelry from China to jewel-like fabrics traditionally used in Asian countries. The array of speakers will offer an opportunity to learn about diverse aspects of the history and beauty of ancient and antique jewelry, materials and techniques, and other related subjects pertaining to a number of Asian countries.

Conference speakers include keynote speaker Katherine Anne Paul, PhD, curator, the Newark Museum, Asian Arts Department, giving a talk titled, "Material and Spiritual Riches: Jewels and Jewelry in Himalayan Arts;" Eric Hoffman, jade researcher and author, "Jade, The Precious Stone of Heaven;" Michael Teller/Melanie Roy, TK Antiques, "Scientifically Documenting Asian Antiquities: The Dating of Gold;" and Robert Mintz, PhD, chief curator, Walters Art Museum, presenting a talk on "Use and Re-Use of Japanese Lacquer for Decorative Arts."

Also included are Cecilia Levin, PhD, researcher, speaking on "Glittering Emblems, The Design Schema and Significance of Ancient Javanese Gold;" Margaret Duda, author and researcher, "Chinese Silver Adornment in the Qing Dynasty and After;" Susan Ollemans, Susan Ollemans Oriental Art, "Eighteenth-Nineteenth Century Indian Mughal Jewelry;" and Emily Banis Stoehrer, PhD candidate, assistant professor at Fisher College, Boston, "All That Glitters: Precious and Jewel-like Materials from Bengal to Bali."

Conference hours are 9 am to 5 pm. The Rubin Museum of Art is at 150 West 17th Street. Conti-

mental breakfast begins at 8:15 am. An optional Study Day (space is limited) will be offered September 21, which will include brunch, a tour of the Rubin Museum, a tour of the Asian Galleries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and afternoon tea.

Tickets for each day are \$350 and must be purchased separately at www.rubinmuseum.org/asianjewelry, 212-620-5000 ext 344 or in person at the Rubin Museum during open hours.

Members of the Rubin Museum and the Association for the Study of Jewelry & Related Arts are entitled to a ten percent discount on the conference day.

For more information or to register, www.jewelryconference.com or elyse@jewelryandrelatedarts.com.



Nephrite jade pendant/chime from the Woolworth Collection. Photo courtesy of Far East Gallery.

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